

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CRIMINAL NO. 06-226 (ADC)

JUAN REYES-MARTI,

Defendant.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Defendant Juan Reyes-Marti was charged in a three (3) counts Indictment and he agreed to plead guilty to Count Two. Count Two charges that, on or about March 30, 2006, in the District of Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of this Court, the defendant, Juan Reyes-Marti, and a co-defendant, aiding and abetting each other, did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute fifty (50) grams or more of cocaine base, a Schedule II, Narcotic Drug Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Defendant appeared before this Magistrate Judge on December 19, 2006, since the Rule 11 hearing was referred by the Court. Defendant was provided with a Waiver of Right to Trial by Jury, which he signed and agreed upon voluntarily after examination in open court, under oath.

Defendant indicated and confirmed his intention to plead guilty to Count Two of the Indictment, upon being advised of his right to have said proceedings before a district judge of this court.¹ Upon verifying through defendant's statement his age, education and any relevant aspect

¹ The form entitled Consent to Proceed Before a United States Magistrate Judge in a Felony Case for Pleading Guilty (Rule 11, Fed.R.Crim.P.) and Waiver of Jury Trial, signed and consented by both parties is made part of the record.

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as to the use of medication, drugs, alcohol or substance dependency, and psychological or psychiatric condition, to ascertain his capacity and ability to understand, answer and comprehend the interactive colloquy with this Magistrate Judge, a determination was made as to defendant's competency and ability to understand the proceedings.

Having further advised defendant of the charges contained in above-stated Count Two, he was examined and verified as being correct that: he had consulted with his counsel, Yasmín Irizarry-Pietry, from the Federal Defender's Office, prior to the hearing for change of plea, that he was satisfied with the services provided by his legal representative and had time to discuss with her all aspects of the case, insofar, among other things, regarding the change of plea, the consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge, the content of the Indictment and the charge therein, his constitutional rights and the consequences of the waiver of same.

Defendant was specifically appraised by this Magistrate Judge that, upon withdrawing his initial plea of not guilty and now entering a plea of guilty to the charge specified, he was waiving his right to a public, speedy, and a trial by jury constituted by twelve jurors who have to unanimously agree to a verdict. He was also waiving his right to be presumed innocent and for the government to meet the obligation of establishing his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Furthermore, he was waiving his right during said trial to confront the witnesses who were to testify against him and be able to cross-examine them, through counsel at said trial, as well as present evidence on his behalf. He was also waiving the right to compel the attendance of witnesses and that subpoenas be issued to have them appear in court to testify. Defendant was specifically appraised of his right to take the stand and testify, if he so decided, or not to testify, and no inference or decision as to his guilt could be made from the fact if he decides not to

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testify. Defendant was also explained his right not to incriminate himself; that upon such a waiver of all above-discussed rights a judgment of guilty and his sentence were to be based on his plea of guilty, and he would be sentenced by the judge after considering the information contained in a pre-sentence report.

As to all the above, defendant provided an individualized and positive acknowledgment of each and every waiver and, with the assistance of his counsel, Attorney Irizarry-Pietry, indicated he freely and voluntarily waived those rights and understood the consequences. During all this colloquy, defendant was made aware that he could freely request from this Magistrate Judge any additional clarification, repetition, or ask questions and that he may consult with his attorney at any given time as to any issue.

Defendant expressed his understanding of the penalties prescribed by statute for the offenses as to which he was pleading guilty. The penalty for the offense charged in Count Two is term of imprisonment which may not be less than ten (10) years and not more than life, a fine not to exceed four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00). The Court must also impose a mandatory penalty assessment of one hundred dollars(\$100.00), per count, a term of supervised release of up to five (5) years.

However, based on the amount of narcotics stipulated between the parties (at least thirty five (35) grams but less than fifty (50) grams of cocaine base ("crack")), it is understood that the maximum penalty for the offense charged in Count Two of Criminal No. 06-226(ADC) is a minimum term of five (5) years and a maximum term of forty (40) years incarceration. Additionally, the Court must impose a term of supervised release of at least four (4) years after the period of incarceration. The Court may also impose a fine not to exceed two million dollars

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(\$2,000,000.00). The Court must also impose a mandatory penalty assessment of one hundred dollars(\$100.00), per count.

Having ascertained directly from defendant that he had not been induced in any way to plead guilty, that no one had forced him in any way to plead guilty, nor that he had been offered any reward or any other thing of value to get him to plead guilty, the document entitled "Plea Agreement pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) FRCP" ("the Agreement") was shown to defendant, verifying his signature and initials on each and every page.

Pursuant to said Agreement, and insofar as Count Two, as to which defendant already was aware of the maximum possible penalties, defendant was appraised that it was up to the sole discretion of the sentencing court what the sentence to be imposed on him will be. Defendant was specifically informed that if the sentencing court were to impose a sentence which turned out to be higher or more severe than the one he might be expecting, for said reason alone, defendant would have no grounds for the court to allow him to withdraw his plea of guilty.

The above-captioned parties' estimate and agreement that appears on page four (4), paragraph eight (8) of the Agreement, regarding the possible applicable advisory Sentencing Guidelines, were further elaborated and explained. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(a)(3) and (c)(5), the defendant agrees and stipulates that he shall be held criminally responsible and for sentencing guidelines calculations to an amount of narcotic drugs that is at least thirty-five (35) grams, but less than fifty (50) grams, of cocaine base ("crack"), for a base offense level of Thirty (30). Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, a decrease of three (3) levels is agreed for acceptance of

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responsibility. Therefore, the Total Offense Level is Twenty-Seven (27), with a sentencing range of seventy (70) to eighty-seven (87) months of imprisonment assuming a Criminal History Category of I.

Should defendant meet all the requirements of the “safety valve” provisions, then the defendant would be entitled to a further two (2) level reduction in the Base Offense Level, which would result in an Adjusted Total base Offense Level of Twenty-five (25), which has a range of fifty-seven (57) to seventy-one (71) months of imprisonment, assuming a Criminal History Category of I. The parties do not stipulate any assessment as to the defendant’s Criminal History.

Defendant was explained by this Magistrate Judge, and by her counsel as to the safety valve provisions, if these were to be applicable to his case, including the five (5) requirements to be met, as explained in detail in paragraph nine (9) of the Agreement.

As indicated in paragraph ten (10) of the Agreement, the parties will recommend the lower end of the applicable guideline range. The parties agree that this represents a reasonable sentence within the parameters of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

Also, as part of the Agreement, as indicated in paragraph thirteen (13), upon sentencing the United States shall move for the dismissal of the Counts One and Three of the Indictment.

As part of the written Agreement, the government, the defendant, and his counsel also agreed they are aware that the Sentencing Guidelines are no longer mandatory and are thus considered advisory.

The government presented to this Magistrate Judge and to defendant, assisted by his counsel, a summary of the basis in fact for the offenses charged and the evidence the government had available to establish, in the event defendant had elected to go to trial, the commission of

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the offense, beyond a reasonable doubt. Counsel and defendant acknowledged the evidence of the government was fully disclosed to them and previously discussed between the two. Defendant was able to understand this explanation and agreed with the government's submission. Defendant was also read and shown a written document entitled Statement of Facts, which had been signed by defendant and his counsel and is attached to the Agreement, wherein the signature of counsel for the government also appears.

Defendant was explained that the Agreement with the government does not bind any other district, except the district of Puerto Rico, and it contained all the promises, terms and conditions which defendant, his attorney and the government, have entered.

Having once more ascertained that defendant has indicated not being induced to plead guilty, and was entering such a plea because in fact he is guilty, without any promises or predictions being made as to the sentence to be imposed by the court, defendant was informed that parole has been abolished under the advisory Sentencing Reform Act and that any sentence of imprisonment would be served, without him being released on parole. Defendant was additionally informed that prior to sentence, the sentencing judge will have a pre-sentence report and that it would be made available to him, to his counsel and to the government, so that they be allowed to correct or object to any information contained in said report which was not accurate. Depending on the facts found by the court at the time and the sentence imposed, both defendant and the government may appeal the sentence of the court.²

²The right to appeal is subject to certain limitations allowed by law since the Agreement also includes in paragraph twenty-one (21) a waiver of appeal.

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Defendant waived the reading of the Indictment in open court because he is aware of its content. Defendant was provided an opportunity to see and examine same, indicating he availed himself of the opportunity to further discuss same with his attorney and then he positively stated that what was contained in Count Two was what he had done and to which he was pleading guilty during these proceedings. Thereafter, defendant expressed in no uncertain terms that he agreed with the government's evidence as to his participation in the offense. Thereupon, defendant indicated he was pleading guilty to Count Two of the Indictment in Criminal No. 06-226 (ADC).

This Magistrate Judge after having explained to the defendant his rights, ascertaining that he was acting freely and voluntarily to the waiver of such rights and in his decision of pleading guilty, with full knowledge of the consequences thereof, and there being a basis in fact for such a plea, is recommending that a plea of guilty be entered as to Count Two of the Indictment in Criminal No. 06-226 (ADC).

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

The sentencing hearing will be scheduled promptly before Honorable Aida Delgado-Colón, District Court Judge.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 26th day of December of 2006.

s/ CAMILLE L. VELEZ-RIVE
CAMILLE L. VELEZ-RIVE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE